

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action of May 8, 2003, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 4-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over the patent to Okada.

Claims 1 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over the patent to Aiyar.

Claims 1-3 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over the patent to Han et al.

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Okada in view of German reference 1212036.

Claims 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Okada in view of the patent to Matsunaga.

Claims 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Okada in view of the patent to Moret et al.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, Applicant has amended claims 1, 4 and 14.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended claim 4 to insert a comma between "the cavity" and "attachment". In view of these changes, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 4-13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is overcome and should be withdrawn.

It should be mentioned that the independent claims now of file specifically define an accessory mount and an electric toothbrush having an accessory mount in which the motor is arranged completely within a handpiece for driving vibration-generating means that extend from the handpiece. An elongate cover is attachable to the handpiece and is configured so that the vibration generating means is arrangeable in an interior of the protective cover. A sleeve is fitted onto the protective cover so as to cover the protective cover over at least part of its length. It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references, and particularly to the patent to Okada, it can be seen that this patent discloses a tooth brushing method with a toothbrush having a predetermined vibration

frequency. Okada does not disclose an electric toothbrush having a handpiece and vibration generating means that extend from the handpiece, as in the presently claimed invention. Furthermore, Okada does not disclose a protective cover attachable to the handpiece and configured so that the vibration generating means which extend from the handpiece are arranged inside the protective cover. Furthermore, there is no disclosure of a sleeve fitted to the protective cover so as to cover the protective cover over at least part of its length. As is clearly seen in Figure 1 of Okada, the vibration generating means 16 is arranged within the handpiece 4, 4A and does not extend therefrom. Thus, Okada furthermore does not disclose a protective cover which is attached to the handpiece so that the vibration generating means which extends from the handpiece is arrangeable within the interior of the protective cover, as in the presently claimed invention.

In view of these considerations, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the above-discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

The patent to Aiyar discloses a motorized scrubbing brush. Applicant respectfully submits that Aiyar does not disclose a motor arranged completely in the handpiece. Instead, as shown in Figure 2 of Aiyar, the motor 50 is mounted in the brush head. Furthermore, the motor extends from the handle body. Thus, Aiyar does not disclose any type of brush, let alone a toothbrush, which has a motor arranged completely within the handpiece, as in the presently claimed invention. Furthermore, Aiyar does not disclose an elongate protective cover attachable to the handpiece and configured so as to have an elongate portion exterior of the handpiece. Clearly, those skilled in the art when viewing Aiyar would not consider the portion of the brush head extending from the handle as being in any way elongate in structure.

In view of these considerations, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over the above-discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

The patent to Hahn et al. discloses an electric toothbrush. Hahn does not disclose a motor arranged completely within the handpiece and vibration generating means that extend from the handpiece, as in the presently claimed invention. In Hahn, the motor is clearly mounted in the

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Respectfully submitted,

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